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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
IN REPLY REFER TO:

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8010-JRC  
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Honorable Don Sundquist  
House of Representatives  
339 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-4207

Dear Congressman Sundquist:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Mr. Charles E. Grissom, regarding implementation of the programming access provisions of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992 (1992 Cable Act).

result in harm. The Commission also concludes, however, that the plain language of the statute requires complaints filed pursuant to the general prohibitions of Section 628(b) regarding unspecified unfair practices must demonstrate that an alleged violation had the purpose or effect of hindering significantly or preventing the complainant from providing programming to subscribers or consumers.

In addition, the First Report and Order adopts a streamlined complaint process. The Commission's rules will encourage programmers to provide

DON SUNDQUIST  
7TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

COMMITTEE:  
WAYS AND MEANS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
339 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4207  
202-225-2811

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4207**

April 22, 1993

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*M MB 92*  
*CA TV*  
*1887*

Chairman  
Federal Communication Commission  
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman:

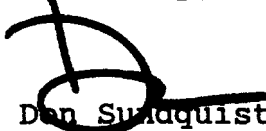
I'm writing to you on behalf of my constituent, Mr. Charles E. Grissom, the General Manager of the Duck River Electric Membership Corporation in Shelbyville, Tennessee.

Mr. Grissom has contacted me regarding the FCC's notice of proposed rule making and Section 19 programming access provisions of the cable bill. I'm enclosing a copy of his letter for your review.

Thank you for your time and attention. Please mention my constituent's name in any return correspondence.

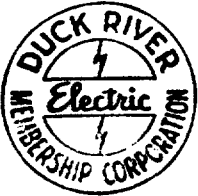
With regards,

Sincerely,



Dan Sundquist, M.C.

DKS:sb



1411 MADISON STREET P. O. Box 89  
SHELBYVILLE, TENNESSEE 37160  
PHONE 615 684-4621

February 2, 1993

The Honorable Don Sundquist  
United States House of Representatives  
438 Cannon House  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Sundquist:

I am writing you to express my concern about the Federal Communications Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) that was released on December 24, specifically as it pertains to the Section 19 programming access provisions of the recently-passed cable bill.

I am General Manager of Duck River Electric Membership Corporation, a consumer-owned, not-for-profit rural cooperative that provides electric service to more than 48,000 consumers in south central Tennessee. In our part of Tennessee, there are many consumers for whom cable service is unavailable due to their remoteness. The only way these consumers can receive television is by using a home satellite dish. Until now, these home satellite dish owners have been paying discriminatorily high rates for much of the programming they receive over their dish. The cost for this programming to home satellite dish distributors is on average five times more than what cable operators pay for it--a difference in price that is completely unjustifiable.

This cooperative, along with hundreds of utilities like it around the country, worked long and hard to secure the inclusion of the cable bill's Section 19 programming access provisions in order to protect our consumers from the cable industry's price-gouging. When the bill passed, we were understandably pleased and hopeful that the discrimination would stop.

This is why we are concerned by the tone of the FCC's NPRM on the subject. The FCC seems to have some difficulty understanding Congress' intentions regarding the cable bill. The duty you charged the FCC with is simple: to issue rules that will encourage competition in the video marketplace by bringing an end to the already-existing monopolistic pricing practices of many cable-owned programmers. Despite this clear mandate, the FCC issued an NPRM that doesn't even admit that price discrimination exists.

The reality of this price discrimination for our consumers really is a dollar-and-cents issue. And it is completely unnecessary; it costs cable-owned programmers and satellite carriers no more to serve the rural home dish market than the urban cable market.

I urge you to review the NPRM issued by the FCC on December 24, and help us ensure that rural residents of Tennessee are protected against price discrimination by lending your voice to our objection to this NPRM. I hope you will encourage the FCC to completely fulfill their duty to you and the citizens of this nation by issuing regulations which will encourage competition in the video marketplace and bring an end to the unjustifiable discrimination against the non-cable video marketplace by cable-owned programmers. On behalf of the thousands of home satellite dish owners living in rural Tennessee, I thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles E. Grissom".

Charles E. Grissom  
General Manager

CEG/kba